preservation and conservation and have established a number of projected areas like national parks, sanctuaries and bio sphere reserves to prevent the loss of plant wealth.

(v) Special schemes for conservation of mangroves and wetlands have been initiated.

(vi) A beginning has been made to encourage rearing of threatened plants in well-established Botanic Gardens of different Universities.

(vii) Measures have been taken to create greater public awareness in favour of conservation of plant wealth.

Exploitation of biological resources by developed countries

235. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the protests raised by botanists from several Asian countries at the Botany 2000 Asia meet against the practice of exploitation biological resources by developed countries without any payment or benefit to the developing countries;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any legislation to exercise control over the collection and export of biological material to extend support to indigenous evaluation of materials;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) Existing legislation like the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Indian Forest Act 1927, Fisheries Act 1894, Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zones and other Maritime Zones Act 1976, Import and Export (Control) Act 1947 (alongwith Import and Export Policy announced from year to year) Custom Act 1962, Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972, Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act 1937, Seeds Act 1966, etc. already provide for some degree of control over the collection and export of biological material.

However, after signing the Convention on Biological Diversity recently, action has been initiated to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing legislative framework relating to conservation of biological diversity, which would include access to and transfer of genetic resources.

Foreign aid for the second phase of Ganga Action Plan

236. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan is likely to be completed over the next five years with the aid of foreign fund;

(b) if so, the details of the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan alnogwith the foreign aid likely to be received; and

(c) whether all the projects in the first phase of the Action Plan have been fully implemented; if so, the net results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Schemes under the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase II are being formulated. Details in this regard are being worked out. the Overseas Economic Cooperation fund (OECF), Government of Japan, have pledged a loan of Rs. 401 crores for Yamuna component of GAP Phase II.

(c) Under the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan, out of 261 sanctioned schemes, 192 schemes have been completed. There is improvement in the